

**Hygiene and Public Health**  
**Progress in the Control of Diabetes. Stat. Bull.,**  
*Metropol. Life Insur. Co., 1938, 19: 1.*

When vital statistics are studied by age groups it is apparent that considerable reduction in the death rate of younger persons from diabetes has occurred since the introduction of insulin. In the experience of the Industrial Department of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, among males in the age groups 1 to 24, 25 to 34 and 35 to 44 there has been a definite and marked decline in the death rate since 1923. This decline has occurred among women but not quite so dramatically as among men.

In the age group 45 to 54 for both men and women the death rate has remained almost stationary for 25 years. In the older age groups the death rate has increased quite markedly. It is quite probable, however, that this recorded increase in deaths in the older age-groups is more apparent than real. The great interest in diabetes which was awakened with the discovery of insulin has undoubtedly resulted in more frequent diagnoses.

FRANK G. PEDLEY

**Silicosis Hazard in State Foundries Found in Mild Degree. Indust. Bull., N.Y. Dept. of Labor, 1938, 17: 214.**

A survey of the foundry industry in New York State, conducted by the Division of Industrial Hygiene of the State Department of Labour, involved the examination (with x-ray) of 4,754 workers in 80 plants. These plants covered iron, steel, non-ferrous and combined foundries.

Of the men examined some were clerical and outside workers with presumably little exposure; 4.5 per cent of foundry workers, 1.1 per cent of pattern makers, and 1.7 per cent of clerical and supervisory workers showed evidence of fibrosis of the lungs. The higher incidence among the foundry workers is undoubtedly a reflection of an occupational dust exposure.

Definite silicosis occurred in 114 cases, 110 of which were among the 4,066 foundry workers, yielding a rate of 2.7 per cent. This percentage probably does not reflect the true picture because many of the workers had been employed for less than 5 years. Among those employed over 40 years the incidence was 9 per cent. Of the 110 cases among foundry workers 88 were first stage, 16 second stage, and 6 third stage.

FRANK G. PEDLEY

**OPTIC NEURITIS.**—Clay and Baird describe 7 cases of unclassified optic neuritis with no general symptoms for from 5 to 22 years, but with soreness and pain on movement of the eyes, usually following malaise, slight colds, or sore throats. Post-neuritic atrophy occurred early, and if vision did not improve in 6 weeks the prognosis was grave. There was no focus of infection or familial disease, and the Wassermann reaction was negative. The authors contend these cases fall into a new category—acute infectious optic neuritis caused by a virus with a predilection for the optic nerve.—*Arch. Ophthalmol.*, Nov. 1937, p. 777. Abs. in *Brit. M. J.*

## Obituaries

**Dr. George Elliot Cook**, of Toronto, died on July 1, 1938. Born in Morrisburg, Ont., in 1871, Dr. Cook was a son of the late Simon Cook, M.P. He acquired his public and high school education in Morrisburg, graduating in medicine from the University of Toronto in 1896 and taking post-graduate courses in the University of Edinburgh. His brief practice in Chicago was followed by his leaving the profession and becoming vice-president of a lumber firm in Toronto. When he retired from that he resided on his farm at Rice Lake, north of Cobourg.

**Dr. Charles Rea Dickson**, of Toronto, died recently. He was in his eightieth year and was born at Kingston, Ont. He was the son of the late Dr. John Robinson Dickson, founder of the Medical Department of Queen's University, and Anne Benson Dickson, both of Belfast, Ireland. A graduate in arts and medicine (1880), Queen's University, he carried on post-graduate work in New York Hospital and Bellevue Hospital, New York. He also held the M.D. of the University of New York (1881). He was elected President of the American Electro-Therapeutic Association on three different occasions. He was at one time head of the x-ray department of the Toronto General Hospital. He lost his sight more than twenty years ago from the use of the ultra-violet ray before its power was understood.

One of the first of the medical fraternity to introduce electro-therapy in Toronto, he was instrumental in establishing departments for electro-therapy in the Toronto General, the Hospital for Sick Children, and St. Michael's Hospitals.

Associated with the late Dr. George S. Ryerson, he assisted in the establishment of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in Canada. When serving as General Secretary for Canada with the Canadian Red Cross, he was the recipient of a personal letter from Queen Alexandra commending his work.

Dr. Dickson was the author of many treatises on electricity, goitre and first aid. One of the charter members and member of the first council and executive committee of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, he was the first President and General Secretary. At the time of his death he held the office of an Honorary Vice-president of the Institute. He received the King George VI Coronation Medal.

Surviving are one brother, Edwin Hamilton Dickson, of Waco, Texas, now in South Carolina; and one sister, Mrs. Bruce, widow of Rev. Dr. George Bruce, founder of St. Andrew's College, Toronto.

**Dr. John Esler** died at his home at Cereal, Alberta, early in July, 1938. Following his graduation from the University of Toronto in 1902 he registered in Dakota, where he practised for nearly twenty years. Then he came to Alberta and made his home at Cereal, where he practised until the time of his death. He built his own private hospital, which he kept open even during the long period of drouth. He was a remarkable man in numerous ways and many who have been helped or cured, when they had no means to pay him will long remember his kindly assistance.

**Dr. Francis Wesley Forge**, of Toronto, died recently. He was born in Megantic, Que., and brought up in Moose Jaw. Upon graduation from the University of Toronto (1919) he practised at Wiarton, Ont., and after his marriage to Miss Phoebe Elizabeth Cobourn, moved to Kentucky, where he was engaged in public health work. He had practised in Toronto since 1932. Dr. Forge served overseas in the "Sportsmen's Battalion", leaving the University of Toronto to fight in the ranks.

**Dr. John Thomson Green**, of Hamilton, Ont., died on July 13, 1938. He was born in London, Ont., in

1887 and a graduate of the University of Western Ontario (1912).

Prior to the outbreak of War, Dr. Green had been an intern at the General Hospital, and after four years of distinguished service overseas and his return to Hamilton, he became active in the work of the Babies' Dispensary, which was just starting at that time. In 1921 he was appointed to the staff of the General Hospital and became associated in obstetrical work with Dr. D. G. McIlwraith.

Most lasting among the memories he leaves was his organization in 1922 of the prenatal clinic in connection with the Babies' Dispensary and the hospital.

Dr. Green went overseas as medical officer with the 120th City of Hamilton Battalion. Subsequently he was transferred to one of the large hospitals and later served for a time at the casualty clearing stations. Later he was appointed medical officer for the 116th Battalion in which a large number of the original 120th Battalion men from Hamilton had been placed.

**Dr. Norman Reginald Henderson**, well known in Western Ontario medical circles as an ear, eye, nose and throat specialist in the past 40 years died on July 15, 1938. He was 68 years old. A native of Kingston, Ont., he received his early education from Queen's University (1895). He completed a post-graduate course in ear, eye, nose and throat at Vienna and London, Eng., and upon returning to Canada settled in London.

**Dr. William H. Keen**, of Nanton, Alberta, died following a brief illness, in a Calgary hospital, on July 31, 1938, at the age of sixty years. He graduated from Western University in 1904 and came West in the same year, to settle in Nanton, which was then a small hamlet, though the centre of a large ranching and farming district. He continued to practise here until the time of his death. He always took an active interest in community affairs. He organized and was in charge of the Nanton General Hospital. He is survived by his widow and one son.

**Dr. Thomas George Loudon**, of Peterborough, Ont., died on July 6, 1938. A son of the late George Loudon and Margaret Daniel Loudon, who is still living in Cambray, Dr. Loudon was born in Peterborough fifty-five years ago. He received his primary education in the public and high schools of Lindsay and was a graduate in medicine of Queen's University in 1919.

**Dr. Charles Belton Macartney**, of Niagara Falls and Thorold, Ont., died on July 27, 1938. He was born in 1876 and a graduate of Wayne University College of Medicine, Detroit (1903).

**Dr. Sterling McGregor** died suddenly at his home in Drumheller, Alberta, on July 18, 1938, at the age of 49 years. He graduated from Queen's University in 1914, and registered in Alberta in 1920. He practised for many years in the mining town of Drumheller. He will be greatly missed by members of the profession as well as by his many friends in the district in which he practised.

**Dr. Byard William Mosher**, of Halifax, N.S., died suddenly when stricken with a heart attack while bathing in the waters of the North-West Arm, on July 25, 1938. Dr. Mosher was fifty-nine years of age and had been attached to the cable ship *Cyrus Field* as ship's surgeon for several years. He was a graduate of Dalhousie Medical School (1908), and served overseas with the Canadian Medical Corps during the Great War. He is survived by his widow, his son, B. W. Mosher, Jr. and a daughter, Ruth Margaret.

**Dr. Thomas Rutherford** died at his home in Shiskine, Isle of Arran, Scotland, on July 25, 1938. The youngest son of the late John Rutherford who came to Nova Scotia as Inspector of Mines in 1866, he was born in Durham County, England, in 1859. He

was educated at King's University, Windsor, and graduated in medicine from the Dalhousie Medical School and Glasgow University. For the last fifty years he practised his profession among the people of Arran by whom he was greatly beloved. Four daughters, and two sons living in Saskatchewan survive him.

**Dr. Edward Ryan**, of Kingston, Ont., died on July 23, 1938, in his 78th year. Born in Frontenac County, Dr. Ryan taught school for several years on Wolfe Island and in Kingston. Later, completing his education at Queen's Medical College, in 1889, he practised medicine in Kingston. He was appointed Superintendent of Rockwood Hospital for the Insane, Kingston, in 1905, and continued in that office until 1930 when he retired. From 1925 until the time of his retirement, he was Superintendent of all Provincial hospitals.

Dr. Ryan, in 1916, proceeded overseas with the Canadian Expeditionary Force and served with one of the hospital units and attained the rank of captain. He returned to Canada in 1917 and was appointed medical director for the Military Hospital Commission for Military District No. 2, with headquarters at Toronto. He was mayor of Kingston in 1899.

## News Items

### Alberta

There has been a steady increase in the incidence of acute anterior poliomyelitis in the southern part of this province since the occurrence of the first recorded case about the middle of July, 1938. There has been a total of twenty-eight cases to August 10th in the province. Fourteen of this number have occurred in the Turner Valley oilfields district. According to Doctor Harry Lander, of Turner Valley, nine of the fourteen patients will likely have some residual paralysis. Only one person has so far developed the disease in Calgary. The majority of the other thirteen patients are in towns within a radius of one hundred miles of this city. A number of these patients have received treatment in Calgary. G. E. LEARMONTH

### British Columbia

**Dr. J. W. MacIntosh**, the Medical Officer of Health of Vancouver, has announced his retirement to take effect on September 30th. He has been responsible for establishing the Metropolitan Health Board, and during his occupancy of the post of health officer many improvements have been introduced and advances made in the control of epidemic disease in the Greater Vancouver area. D. E. H. CLEVELAND

### Manitoba

The Manitoba physicians who had the privilege of being present at the annual meeting of the Canadian Medical Association at Halifax deeply appreciate the hospitality shown by the Halifax citizens, and the labours of the local committee which ensured the smooth running of the meeting.

The Unemployment Relief Committee of the Winnipeg City Council has been obliged to reduce its estimate for the cost of medical care of those on unemployment relief from \$165,000 for 1937 to \$125,000 for the present year. To this end meetings of this Committee have been held with the Committee on Sociology of the Manitoba Medical Association in an endeavour to find how reductions may be made. The